

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3139
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2004
RELIEF TO SOYABEAN FARMERS
Singh Shri Chandrabhan Bhaiya

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the soyabean crop in Madhya Pradesh destroyed due to the infestation of caterpillars causing huge losses to the farmers;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to mitigate the sufferings of the farmers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (d) whether farmers suffer huge losses due to the use of spurious fertilizers and pesticides;
- (e) if so, the steps taken to check the distribution of spurious fertilizers and pesticides; and
- (f) the other steps proposed to be taken to protect the interest of the farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) to (c): The Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported that soybean crop in an estimated area of 9,81,167 hectares has been affected by Caterpillars out of which the crop in 1,37,228 hectares has been damaged by more than 50%. Farmers whose crops have been affected by infestation by caterpillars can avail compensation under the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme. Funds allocated to the State under the Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) and Macro Management Scheme can be utilized for controlling this pest.

(d) to (f): The supply of quality inputs to farmers is ensured through law enforcement and imparting training to farmers on correct and judicious use of quality insecticides under the overall ambit of eco-friendly Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach. Further, the State has been advised to update infrastructure facilities in Pesticide Testing Laboratories and Bio-control laboratories. The Central Government has been giving grants-in-aid for the purpose.

To ensure adequate availability of good quality of fertilizer to the farmers at reasonable prices, Government of India has declared fertilizer as an essential commodity under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and issued Fertilizer Control order, 1985 to regulate the trade, prices, quality and distribution of fertilizer in the country. The enforcement agency of the State Government is empowered to take appropriate administrative and legal action against those who indulge in production and sale of fertilizers which do not meet the specifications prescribed in the Fertilizer Control Order, 1985.